REMARKS

This is to acknowledge that all of the claims were rejected in the above-identified Office Action, primarily in view of the cited Shirakawa patent, although the cited Hirabayashi and Mukawa patents were also relied on for disclosing some of the claim elements. By this response, however, the claims have been amended and are believed to be patentable for the reasons set forth below.

In particular, independent Claims 1, 18 and 21 have been amended to require that a recording apparatus of the present invention, which records on a recording medium image data and management data recorded in a start address area for recording a start address of the image data and recorded in an end address area for recording an end address of the image data, wherein the recording means is controlled to record a predetermined value other than the recording end address into the end address area in accordance with a recording instruction (e.g., step S204 in Fig.6). Applicant respectfully submits that such structure is not disclosed in any of the references.

Specifically, the Shirakawa patent discloses a recording address information table (Fig.1B) on a recording medium together with image data (e.g., column 27, lines 23-26). However, Shirakawa does not disclose recording a predetermined value other than end address information on an address recording area of the table. Also, the cited Hirabayashi patent discloses recording an information table in a TOC area (column 3, lines 1-10). This reference discloses a plurality of information tables (Figs.1-5) which are to be used separately, and each table has data areas for different items, in which data corresponding to the items are stored, respectively. However, the Hirabayashi patent does

not disclose storing, in the data area, predetermined data other than data corresponding to the item of that data area.

Accordingly, it is believed that amended independent Claims 1, 18 and 21 are allowable..

Independent Claims 7, 19 and 22 have also been amended and now require a recording apparatus, which records image data on a disk-shaped recording medium in accordance with a recording start instruction and a recording stop instruction, wherein management data on the disk-shaped recording medium provides for flag data which indicates that a stop of image data recording is not performed based on the recording stop instruction, in accordance with the recording instruction (e.g., page 16, lines 17-22).

This feature of the present invention is not disclosed in the cited Shirakawa and Mukawa patents. That is, the Shirakawa patent fails to disclose recording the flag data recited in the amended independent Claims 7, 19 and 22, in accordance with a recording instruction. The Mukawa patent discloses flag information which indicates that a user TOC (U-TOC) is not updated. This U-TOC is held in the memory as backup data which requires a backup battery to be held in the memory. The Mukawa patent therefore fails to disclose recording the flag information into management data recorded on a disk-shaped recording medium.

In view of the above, the cited Shirakwa and Mukawa patents do not disclose control means functioning together with the recording means and the instructing means as recited in the amended independent Claims 7, 19 and 22.

Furthermore, independent Claim 14 has been amended to require that a recording apparatus of the present invention is arranged so as to record flag information

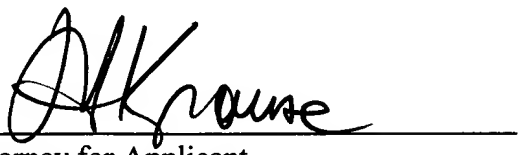
indicating that recording image data onto a disk-shaped recording medium is not normally finished, in table data recorded on the disk-shaped recording medium, and to delete the flag information from the table data when the recording of the image data is normally finished. This feature of the present invention as well as the amended independent Claims 7, 19 and 22 is not disclosed in the Shirakawa and Mukawa patents.

Independent Claims 15, 20 and 23 have been amended to require that a recording apparatus of the present invention is arranged so as to record in an image data area of a disk an image data train comprising a plurality of image data groups, and first management data indicating a recording address of each of the plurality of image data groups (e.g., step S208 in Fig.6), and to record in a management data area of the disk second management data indicating a recording address of the image data train (e.g., step S211 in Fig.6). According to this feature of the present invention, recording address information of image data groups can be recorded without moving a recording head from the image data area to the management data area even when image data is recorded on the disk-shaped recording medium. This feature of the present invention also is not disclosed in the cited Shirakawa patent. This reference discloses recording an image information table (Fig.1B) on a recording medium but is silent on a specific recording area on the recording medium, in which the image information table is recorded. None of the other references disclose recording on the recording medium an image data train comprising a plurality of image data groups and first management data indicating a recording address of each image data group, in an image data area of a disk.

For all these various reasons Applicant solicits the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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